



**WASHINGTON STATE
FARM BUREAU**

1011 10th Avenue S.E. • P.O. Box 2009
Olympia, Washington 98507

(360) 357-9975
Fax (360) 357-9939

1048 99 OCT-3 10:11

October 26, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food & Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Proposed Rule on New Animal Drug Applications; Sheep as a Minor Species

On behalf of the Washington State Farm Bureau members that are sheep producers we thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this proposed new rule. We would like to go on record as being in support of this proposed rule that would reclassify sheep as a minor species for data collection purposes.

We are solidly in support of allowing new animal drug application sponsors to extrapolate human food safety data from a major species such as cattle. There is solid data that shows the similarity of drug metabolism between sheep and cattle and we believe that allowing drug companies to utilize extrapolated data from cattle will result in obtaining approval of new animal drugs for use by the sheep industry. Unfortunately because the sheep population numbers in the U.S. are considerably lower than cattle, it has been to date an extremely expensive venture for drug companies to compile the necessary research data to obtain FDA approval for sheep. This often meant that medicines that we knew would work for our animals have simply not been available for use within the sheep industry.

We truly believe this proposed rule change would result in more new animal drug applications for sheep that will be beneficial to the health of our flocks and result in increased consumer confidence in our product. We appreciate the opportunity to express our support for this proposed rule.

Sincerely,

Linda M. Johnson
Director Government Relations

990-2151

C7



Washington State Farm Bureau
PO Box 2009 • 1011 10th Ave SE
Olympia, WA 98507-2009



3 P&DF, WA. 20:05 10/26/99

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food & Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

